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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Disarmament Week

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", adopted resolution 44/119 G of 15 December 1989, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General 1/ on the follow-up measures undertaken by States, governmental and non-governmental organizations in holding Disarmament Week;

"2. Commends all States, international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations for their active support for and participation in Disarmament Week;

"3. Invites all States that so desire, in carrying out appropriate measures at the local level on the occasion of Disarmament Week, to take into account the elements of the model programme for Disarmament Week prepared by the Secretary-General; 2/

"4. Invites Governments to continue, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/71 D of 14 December 1978, to inform the Secretary-General of activities undertaken to promote the objectives of Disarmament Week;

"5. Invites international and national non-governmental organizations to continue to take an active part in Disarmament Week and to inform the Secretary-General of the activities undertaken;

"6. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to use the United Nations information organs as widely as possible to promote better understanding among the world public of disarmament problems and the objectives of Disarmament Week;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 33/71 D, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

1/ A/44/446 and Add.1 and 2.

2/ A/34/436.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of the resolution, the Secretary-General submits herewith the report on the activities undertaken to promote the objectives of Disarmament Week during the three-year period 1989-1991.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC*

[Original: Russian]

[29 June 1990]

1. As in previous years, practically all sectors of the population have been involved in activities in the cause of peace. The most active role in this respect continued to be played by the Byelorussian Committee for the Defence of Peace, the Byelorussian section of the Soviet Peace Fund, the Byelorussian Association for Cultural Contacts with Compatriots Abroad, the Byelorussian Cultural Fund and other public organizations, including trade unions and youth, veterans' and creative associations.

2. To coordinate anti-war actions in the Republic, local committees for the defence of peace have been established. Committees for the defence of peace have been established in major enterprises and educational institutions.

3. The main anti-war activities in Byelorussia were conducted within the framework of international peace campaigns.

4. From 8 to 15 May 1989, European Security and Cooperation Week was celebrated in all regions of the Republic, coinciding with the preparations for the celebration of the forty-fifth anniversary of the date of Byelorussia's liberation from the German fascist invaders. Anti-war meetings, encounters with war veterans and meetings of solidarity with peace activists from foreign countries were held in thousands of labour collectives.

5. From 3 to 9 August, the traditional Week in Memory of the Victims of the Atom Bomb Attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was held in the Republic.

6. In the course of the Week, the "Peace Wave" initiated in these Japanese towns passed through the Republic.

7. From 24 to 30 October, Disarmament Week was held in Byelorussia. The central event of this Week was the destruction on 27 October, in accordance with the Soviet-United States treaty, of the last medium-range missile launching facility at a military base in Byelorussia (Stankovo). The

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* On 19 September 1991, the Byelorussian SSR informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Belarus.

destruction ceremony was attended by representatives of peace organizations in the Republic and members of international official and monitoring bodies, including members of the United States inspection team.

8. At this time, a delegation from Minsk and the Minsk region was in Kazakhstan, where on the same day, 27 October, the last medium-range missile was blown up.

9. Together with these actions, the traditional measures associated with the Week, about the nature of which the Byelorussian SSR regularly informs the Secretary-General of the United Nations (information for 1988 was published in document A/44/446), were also conducted.

10. In the course of 1989, an extensive programme of international activities was carried out in the territory of the Byelorussian SSR.

11. From 28 to 30 June, the "Next Step" peace run took place in the territory of the Republic; its participants included well-known Byelorussian sportsmen.

12. From 30 July to 3 August, the territory of Byelorussia was the site for the conduct of the "International Paris-Moscow Relay Race", commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the French Revolution. The main theme of the run was: "Europe - our common home". The composition of this team of marathon runners also included representatives of the Republic.

13. 1 September occupies an important place in the activity of peacemaking forces in the Republic. In Byelorussia, it has become a tradition to celebrate this day as World Peace Day, the Day of Trade Union Actions for Peace. The Day begins with a peace lesson which is taught in all schools in the first class of the first school day. In 1989, members of a large delegation from the Christian Peace Service of the Federal Republic of Germany, which was in Minsk at the time, participated in the peace lessons. An important feature of all peace promotion measures conducted on 1 September was the reminder that on that very day 50 years ago the Second World War, which wrote the most tragic pages in Byelorussia's history, started.

14. In overcoming the enemy image and strengthening on this basis trust and, in the final analysis, peace, an increasing role is played by people's diplomacy, i.e. contacts between ordinary people in various countries. In the peacemaking efforts of the Byelorussian proponents of peace, great importance is attached to this factor.

15. In 1989, contacts with peace activists from the Federal Republic of Germany were intensively developed, through such actions as the Second Political Pilgrimage of activists from the Christian Peace Service in the Federal Republic to Byelorussia, the establishment of contacts between former concentration camps under the Lidice initiative, meetings with religious workers and writers, exchange of delegations, contacts between people, family vacation exchanges, and joint participation in an international brigade to build a hospital in India.

16. Links with peace organizations in the United States of America were actively developed, that exchange of delegations, citizens and school children, residence by children in families in the other country and exchange of exhibitions of children's drawings. The traditionally strong links with proponents of peace in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland continued, through an exchange of delegations, meetings with health-care experts, public education, ecology, and joint seminars of school children. On the initiative of the Minsk Committee for the Defence of Peace, the Byelorussian yacht Samanta sailed to the United Kingdom with a message to the English proponents of peace.

17. Contacts were developed with other countries (the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Japan), and steps were taken to establish new contacts with peace activists in Australia, Brazil, Argentina and Spain.

18. Republic and local information media gave regular broad coverage to public peace activities.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

[Original: English]

[19 May 1992]

On the occasion of Disarmament Week 1991, the following activities were organized at the national level:

(a) During the observance of Disarmament Week, the newspapers Rodong Sinmun, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Minju Choson, organ of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and other newspapers, including The Pyongyang Times, published a series of articles and commentaries regarding disarmament matters;

(b) Radio and television broadcasts were devoted to giving information about the situation and prospects of international disarmament efforts and explaining the disarmament proposals for peace on the Korean peninsula;

(c) On the occasion of Disarmament Week, the Institute for Disarmament and Peace organized a series of lectures under the titles of "Confidence-building between the North and the South and its contribution to the peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region" and "Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula", in which the following topics were discussed:

(i) Arms reduction in the North and the South;

(ii) Withdrawal of foreign forces;

(iii) Conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone;

(iv) Verification through mutual inspections.

MONGOLIA

[Original: Russian]

[23 March 1990]

In 1989, Mongolia marked Disarmament Week by holding the following events:

(a) On 24 October, the Mongolian Committee for the Defence of Peace and the Central Union of Mongolian Trade Unions held a solemn meeting and a concert featuring instrumental groups to mark Disarmament Week and the second stage of "Peace Wave '89". The proceeds from the concert were deposited in the National Peace Fund;

(b) In connection with United Nations Day and Disarmament Week, the Mongolian United Nations Association and the Mongolian Committee for the Defence of Peace jointly organized a film showing that was attended by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic, the Executive Committee of the Mongolian Federation of Peace and Friendship and representatives of accredited foreign diplomatic missions in Ulaanbaatar;

(c) On the initiative of the Committee of Mongolian Women, a mass meeting of representatives of women's organizations of the city was held at a spinning mill in Ulaanbaatar. The participants in the meeting expressed their support for the peace-loving policy of the Government of Mongolia and their desire to contribute to the efforts of the international community to consolidate international stability and disarmament;

(d) Mass rallies of workers took place in the provincial centres of Dundgovi, Henty and Bulgan provinces;

(e) An exhibition of the works of artists of Dornogovi Province, on the theme "Artists for peace", was held at the House of Peace and Friendship in the capital;

(f) Members of the Mongolian delegation who participated in the thirty-second session of the Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations spoke on national radio in a special broadcast entitled "Friends of the United Nations". They talked about the work and outcome of the session and about the participation of the Mongolian delegation in that forum;

(g) National radio and television broadcast the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations delivered on the occasion of United Nations Day;

(h) During the Week, the press published a number of articles and commentaries on questions relating to the strengthening of international security and disarmament. In particular, the publications dealt with problems

of security in the Asian and Pacific region, reduction of strategic nuclear missiles, the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons and the mobilization of world public opinion in support of disarmament;

(i) Mongolian Central Radio and Television gave extensive coverage to the activities conducted in Mongolia and abroad to mark Disarmament Week.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC*

[Original: Russian]

[28 February 1990]

1. A grand public meeting was held on 24 October 1989 in Kiev, the capital of the Ukrainian SSR, to mark United Nations Day and the beginning of Disarmament Week. Representatives of enterprises, scientific and cultural establishments, institutions of higher learning, trade unions and various citizens' groups, including the United Nations Association of the Ukrainian SSR, established in 1989, took an active part in the meeting.

2. Opening the meeting, Mr. A. M. Kovalevsky, Secretary of the Ukrainian Trade Union Council, noted that the United Nations had become an indispensable means of ensuring interaction between all States in conditions of equality and of peace. Differences in social structure and ideology had not prevented that, in so far as the need for unity in restoring and maintaining peace had been impressed upon peoples as a bitter lesson of the Second World War. At that critical juncture in the development of international relations, the members of the international community were pinning their hopes on the work of the United Nations and had begun to erect together the structure of a nuclear-free, non-violent world.

3. In his address, Mr. V. N. Lipatov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian SSR, noted that the founding Members of the United Nations had conceived of the Organization not as an instrument of conflict and confrontation, but as an indispensable means of ensuring interaction in conditions of equality, peace and cooperation.

4. In the years since its inception, the United Nations had travelled a long, hard road. Under its auspices, States had produced a whole range of major agreements on limiting the arms race and cutting off certain arms channels. The United Nations had become a powerful catalyst for decolonization and had made a significant contribution to the codification of international law.

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* On 24 August 1991, the Ukrainian SSR changed its name to Ukraine.

5. At the same time, the history of the United Nations has reflected the vicissitudes of the overall course of post-war international relations. Significantly, the Organization's highest level of activity and productiveness, the renaissance of the United Nations, have been directly linked to the improved international climate.

6. The revitalization of the United Nations in recent years was largely due to the new political thinking and the new approaches to its place and role in the world, which were based on the premise that international security could not be assured without or outside the United Nations.

7. The speaker went on to say that from the earliest days of the Organization, the representatives of the Ukrainian SSR had been taking an active part in its work. The Republic was well represented in many United Nations organs; it remained true to the commitments it had made in signing the Charter of the United Nations, and remained ready to do its utmost to turn the Organization into a permanent guarantor of a nuclear-free, non-violent world.

8. Other speakers at the meeting - the historian Dr. L. A. Leshchenko, Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Association of the Ukrainian SSR, a worker from one of the city's industrial associations, Mr. I. S. Poletilo, and a student at State University, Mr. A. A. Taranenko - stated that the most important task facing mankind today was to protect life on the planet and prevent nuclear catastrophe.

9. A statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, on the occasion of United Nations Day was read out at the meeting.

10. Those attending the meeting endorsed a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations expressing, on behalf of the Ukrainian people, support for the United Nations and for its purposes and principles.

11. In connection with the observance of United Nations Day and Disarmament Week, mass rallies, marches, public meetings and anti-war demonstrations organized by the Ukrainian Peace Committee and other citizens' groups were held in many Ukrainian towns and settlements. Round-table discussions, seminars and other events were held at a number of universities and scientific institutions.

12. During Disarmament Week, the Crimea Region hosted at the Livadiya Exhibition Centre - where the Crimea (Yalta) Conference between the heads of the three Powers participating in the anti-Hitler coalition was held in February 1945 - an international meeting between activists in the Ukrainian peace movement and representatives of the peace-loving peoples of the German Democratic Republic and Finland.

13. The third "Peace Wave", during which millions signed the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal, travelled through a number of regions.

14. A peace march by students and schoolchildren, evening workshops, political-poster competitions on the theme "We want peace" and solidarity fairs were held in the Donetsk Region. Peace classes and meetings with war-veterans and war-widows were organized in hundreds of schools throughout the Zaporozhye Region.

15. In connection with Disarmament Week, many Ukrainian regions, among them Chernigov, Sumy, Donetsk and Nikolaev, were involved in the environmental event "Green Peace Wave", which focused attention on the importance of environmental security for the survival of mankind.

16. During the observance of Disarmament Week, the Ukrainian SSR was the venue for tens of thousands of anti-war activities, in which tens of millions participated. These events received wide coverage in the local and national media. Ukrainian radio and television stations, newspapers and magazines devoted special segments to United Nations Day and Disarmament Week.

III. UNITED NATIONS

A. United Nations Headquarters

1. Every year, Disarmament Week is widely observed at United Nations Headquarters and elsewhere in the world by organizations of the United Nations system. In particular, both the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information endeavour to involve as many segments of the public as possible in the observance of Disarmament Week. In this connection, the network of United Nations information centres plays a key role in stimulating and/or supporting activities undertaken at the local level by concerned constituencies around the world.

2. At United Nations Headquarters, Disarmament Week during the period under review was marked by two traditional events: its observance by the First Committee of the General Assembly, and an NGO Forum co-sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the NGO Committee on Disarmament.

3. The First Committee devoted its 15th, 17th and 21st meetings to the observance of Disarmament Week in 1989, 1990 and 1991 respectively. Statements were made by the Chairman of the Committee, the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General. In 1991, against the background of the great improvement in relations between East and West, all the speakers stressed the need for the multilateral community to strengthen the foundations of international peace and stability and to recognize that socio-economic and human rights questions, in addition to military considerations, have a bearing on security. Among the specific disarmament issues that were mentioned as requiring urgent attention were prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the most destabilizing types of weapons such as ballistic missiles; and the promotion of transparency, openness and confidence-building, both regionally and globally.

4. The other traditional Disarmament Week event, the NGO Forum, was held in each of the three years covered by the report. The 1989 NGO Forum addressed various disarmament issues on the agenda of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, focusing on three questions in particular: "What progress has been made and what issues remain in negotiating a chemical weapons convention?", "What are the major issues before the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference?" and "What are the prospects for a nuclear test-ban treaty?" While the NGO Forum in 1990 dealt with the issue of verification, the 1991 Forum focused on the question of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms. All these forums consisted of panel discussions attended by representatives of non-governmental organizations, the diplomatic community, the media and United Nations staff members.

5. In addition to these traditional events, two exhibitions were held at United Nations Headquarters during Disarmament Week 1989. One was the exhibit "War and Peace" featuring approximately 100 panels of photographs that dealt with the history of wars and peace efforts in this century and shed light on global issues including hunger, poverty and the environment. The exhibit was organized by the Soka Gakkai International in cooperation with the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and sponsored by the then Department for Disarmament Affairs. The other was the exhibit of sculptures and paintings by Venanzo Crocetti, an Italian artist, entitled "The Young Horseman of Peace". It was sponsored by the Government of Italy and the Crocetti Foundation.

6. In addition, the then Department for Disarmament Affairs organized during Disarmament Week 1990 at United Nations Headquarters a series of three lectures on the topic of "Conversion: economic adjustments in an era of arms reduction".

B. United Nations Office at Geneva

7. The Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs also contributed to the observance of Disarmament Week during the period under review. It organized at the Palais des Nations an exhibition of disarmament activities, international disarmament legal instruments and United Nations publications on disarmament. The Geneva Branch also provided assistance and support to the non-governmental community at Geneva in the organization of events in support of Disarmament Week. For example, in 1989, it assisted the United Nations and Related Agencies Staff Movement for Disarmament and Peace in organizing an international photomontage exhibition on peace and disarmament and a round table on artists for peace. In 1990, the Geneva Branch was represented at a three-day conference entitled "Together for Peace - the United Nations and NGOs in a Changing World" convened by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) at the Palais des Nations. In 1991 the Geneva Branch participated in a special seminar organized at the Palais des Nations by the Special NGO Committee on Disarmament (Geneva) on "Arms and disarmament - views from the South".

C. United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

8. Various events were organized or co-sponsored by the United Nations regional centres in conjunction with Disarmament Week. For example, during Disarmament Week 1991, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa held a meeting at Lomé on "New approaches to disarmament and peace-keeping", and invited a cross-section of the diplomatic corps, heads of international organizations and university students to attend. The Regional Centre also conducted at Lomé a simulation exercise for university students on a General Assembly special session on regional disarmament. At Lima, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean organized a conference on global peace and security in the 1990s for Peruvian congressmen with a view to enhancing their awareness of the implications of arms expenditures in the process of economic development.

D. United Nations information centres and services

9. Disarmament Week was observed every year at the local level through a variety of commemorative events and activities organized throughout the world by United Nations information centres and services. In this connection, many United Nations information centres issued and distributed special backgrounders for radio, television and press services, organized exhibits of United Nations disarmament materials and cooperated with local non-governmental organizations in planning and organizing special observances. Other activities undertaken by the information centres included distribution of disarmament information material (often translated into local languages), special meetings, rallies and peace marches, symposia, round tables, seminars, conferences, lectures, art exhibits and other related events. In addition, directors and staff members of United Nations information centres and services organized and addressed special ceremonies and provided articles and interviews for the local media.

10. To promote wider publicity of Disarmament Week, the centres and services often worked closely with the print and audiovisual media, with foreign ministries of Member States, government agencies and offices, United Nations associations, educational institutions, research centres and non-governmental organizations. On the whole, disarmament-related activities during Disarmament Week were covered extensively by the local media.

IV. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

11. In paragraph 5 of resolution 44/119 G, the General Assembly invited international non-governmental organizations to take an active part in Disarmament Week and to inform the Secretary-General of the activities undertaken in that connection. The following non-governmental organizations have informed the Office for Disarmament Affairs of activities they carried out in observance of Disarmament Week:

Sane Freeze

Soviet Peace Committee

UNESCO Club in Pakistan

United Nations Association of Bangladesh

United Nations and Related Agencies Staff Movement for Disarmament and Peace

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